

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GO FOR BROKE STAMP

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the toughness and resiliency of the Japanese American soldiers of the four forty-second regimental combat team during World War II. Men and women who stepped up to fight for American prosperity while their families were simultaneously forced into confinement camps.

This stamp, which displays their motto "Go For Broke," honors the patriotism Japanese American soldiers exemplified despite the betrayal they faced at home. Under these charged circumstances, the 442nd proved itself as one of the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in the entire history of the U.S. Military.

As a community with a shared, and at times, painful history, it is important to have a symbol. A national symbol of perseverance.

Many Americans don't know the stories of their own family tree . . . they likely don't know the bravery of the Japanese American soldiers during WWII, soldiers of the 442nd and others, who helped save our country while our own government was tearing apart our families.

The stamp will shine a light on this chapter of history. And to teach that we are all Americans. To see the United States soldier's face on the stamp, an Asian American face.

This stamp is also the symbol of the tireless efforts of three wonderful women—FUSA Takahashi, AIKO King and CHIZ Ohira, who truly drove the effort to make this a reality.

The story behind the creation of this stamp speaks to the dedication and strong fabric of the Japanese American community. This was a community-led effort, started over 15 years ago, that brought together many generations. I saw up close how hard it was to convince their fellow colleagues that this is important, to work with the community, to talk to their legislators.

Just earlier this month, I had the pleasure to see its unveiling in Sacramento and speak to Fusa about the importance of this community symbol. We all shared our stories from that chapter of time.

I know that many families who were incarcerated did not tell their stories once they were allowed back home. It was painful to be incarcerated, to live behind barbed wire and lose your homes, businesses and even loved ones.

We remembered when our community stood up and shared our painful past with Congress and across the country, fought for redress and the Civil Liberties Act. We recounted the many efforts of educating our neighbors and our children, to remind them that we are everyday Americans and what happened was wrong.

And now, recently, we understand how important it is to continue to teach about our his-

tory because people are hurting, especially with the horrific events that have targeted the AAPI community. Looking at the past, one thing we've learned is that we have to stand up for each other.

As we continue to strive to become a more tolerant nation, we must do our part in overcoming societal wrongs, and we must also remember the strength of our nation when we come together toward a shared goal.

The Go For Broke Stamp is a symbol of education, of healing, and of community. The Japanese American experience is a vital piece of American history, and in order to have a stronger democracy, we must lift each other up and tell our stories.

I am glad that this stamp will serve as a reminder of the Japanese American story, and the bravery and patriotism of these American heroes.

HONORING ARMY VETERAN AND WOUNDED WARRIOR ALEXANDER LOFGREN

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a friend, not only to myself, but to his colleagues and to this country. I rise today to honor United States Army veteran, Alexander Lofgren. Alex served the veteran community on behalf of my office in Arizona's Third Congressional District. Born March 10, 1989 in Exeter, California, he spent many years of his life traveling and living in different states as his father served in the military. Alex followed in his father's footsteps and joined the military in 2011. He served as a Combat Engineer in the Army and only months after he joined, he was deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. During his service in the Army he lost 4 friends, who we also honor today. SFC Bobby L. Estle, PFC Jose O. Belmontes, 2LT David E. Rylander, and SPC Junot M. L. Cochilus.

After being honorably, medically discharged in October 2014, Alex began his studies at Arizona State University. He graduated with a degree in Political Science and a minor in Anthropology. Shortly after graduating, he worked at the Crisis Response Network where he did case management answering calls of veterans in crisis and helping them with immediate crisis intervention. He later served on then-Congresswoman Kyrsten Sinema's Veteran's Advisory Council and Legislative Committee. In July 2019, Alex joined our District office in Tucson, AZ through the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program. Alex worked as a constituent services representative helping local constituents resolve issues with federal agencies, serving as a liaison to local Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), and attending local events and meetings on behalf of my office.

Alex loved his plants, enjoyed nature, golf, greenhouses, cooking, and local coffee and donut shops. He was an avid photographer and always on an adventure that often included enjoying time with his partner, Emily, and their dogs, Gunner, Jane, and Nora. Alex had visited over 20 national parks. He was passionate about using outdoor activities as a means of helping other veterans and embraced the activities and serenity nature had to offer. Tragically he passed away on April 4, 2021 in a visit to Death Valley National Park.

We find comfort in knowing that Alex spent his last days doing what he enjoyed alongside a person he loved. We have no doubt that his heroic actions during the hike that ended so tragically helped keep his partner, Emily, alive until search and rescue brought her to safety.

I want to thank the community from Tucson and beyond for the outpouring of support during these difficult months, as well as the National Park Service and other federal and local partners who deployed every available resource to locate Alex and Emily. To know Alex was to know someone who had boundless energy for life and who was focused on making a difference in the lives of others. His loss has left a void in the hearts of his colleagues and his family. He will forever be a part of our family, and my heart is with his parents, Joe and Ruth, and his loving partner Emily. Our Nation has lost a hero. I am thankful to have known Alexander Lofgren.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF CLAYTON EDWARD FRANCIS DERDERIAN

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Clayton Edward Francis Derderian, who passed away at his home on May 16, 2021, at the very young age of 15, having fought a long battle against a devastating form of brain and spinal cancer for 12 years of his much-too-short life.

Clay was known to family and friends as Clay-Bear, Chili Bean, Mr. Dunderfuss, and Busby. He was an aspiring chef, inventor, and entrepreneur. He was a braille reader but always preferred to be read to, ideally "in character". At mealtime he often announced: "I am not hungry, what's for dessert?" He loved a good joke or a good story and despite his disease, somehow managed to love life and especially the people around him.

Clay leaves his mother, Mary Bannon, father, JD Derderian, sister Grace Derderian and grandmothers Rainette Bannon and Inez Derderian, as well as loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

The tributes paid to Clay by those who knew him well say he was wise beyond his years, that he could make a whole room smile with just a few words, and that he was welcoming and always smiling. He was an amazingly funny person with a great sense of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

humor and brought joy and sweetness to every interaction.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in expressing our deepest condolences to Clay's family on their profound loss. May they take solace from knowing that their beloved son was given the best care possible and that he was loved deeply. I believe he is now with the angels, making them laugh and brightening heaven, just as he did during his life with us on earth.

COMMEMORATING THE "GO FOR BROKE" FOREVER STAMP

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join Congressman ED CASE and my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to commemorate the "Go For Broke" Forever Stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service earlier this month. This stamp honors the over 30,000 Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who bravely served our country during World War II. Despite facing intense racism and discrimination, these soldiers fought valiantly to defend our nation and went on to become the most highly decorated military unit in U.S. history.

The courage of this all Japanese American military unit is exemplified in their work to ensure that no American soldier was left behind during the war. In late 1944, Allied troops were pushing towards Germany, facing some of the fiercest resistance yet, and liberating French territory along the way. Looking to take advantage of these gains, the men of the 141st Regiment—made up of mostly Texans—moved quickly through dense forests and mountains until they unknowingly became separated from the rest of their fellow soldiers. Surrounded by Germans, with both temperatures and supplies running low, and special orders from Hitler himself not to let these troops escape no matter the cost, the situation was desperate.

And so, to save these men, we turned to the one division we knew had what it would take to push through: the 442nd Regimental Combat Team—a segregated unit consisting entirely of Japanese American troops. For six days, this unit fought with almost no rest until they pierced the German lines. When one of the trapped Texans finally saw who was coming to their rescue he said, "To our great pleasure it was members of the 442nd Combat Team. We were overjoyed to see these people for we knew them as the best fighting men in [the European theater]."

One of the men from the 442nd who was there that day, Ted Ohira, says that was no accident. Because of the prejudice of the time and the assumption that Japanese Americans could not be trusted, Ohira says these Japanese American soldiers were subjected to some of the roughest basic training. But he was proud of what he went through, saying it meant they were able to take more, endure more, and go further than anyone. They called this their "Go For Broke" mentality, which is exactly what they did in risking everything to rescue the 221 men of the famous "Lost Battalion."

And yet, even as men like Ted Ohira were risking and losing their lives for our country, their families back home were facing unbelievable discrimination. In fact, while Ted Ohira was in Europe, his future wife Chiz and her family were being forced onto a bus just down the street from their Los Angeles grocery store and driven to a prison camp in Arizona. Chiz and her family were just some of the over 120,000 Japanese Americans to be wrongfully imprisoned at this time due to President Roosevelt's shameful Executive Order 9066.

But for these "Go For Broke" Japanese Americans, their patriotism was more important than somebody else's prejudice. And in 2011, the U.S. Congress awarded these Japanese American Nisei veterans with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian honor that Congress can bestow. And yet, too many still do not know about their incredible service to our nation.

That is why, in 2016, I led a letter along with the late Congressman Mark Takai, signed by 33 Members of the House and Senate, urging the U.S. Postal Service to preserve and share this inspiring story through a commemorative stamp. This was not only to recognize and honor the service and sacrifice of some of our most heroic soldiers. It was also to inspire others through their example of courage, loyalty, and undying patriotism. And I'm so glad that we now have a "Go For Broke" Forever Stamp to honor the thousands of Japanese Americans who signed up to defend freedoms they themselves could not enjoy.

This stamp was so important to me because it sent a powerful message that even when our government is not living up to our values, there are millions of Americans from all backgrounds who will risk their lives for those values. And I am proud that I am not alone. Starting in 2005, people like Chiz Ohira and the Nisei movement have been tireless in their work to make sure more Americans understand the service of the Japanese American soldiers in World War II.

I'm grateful for their years of hard work in helping make this stamp a reality, and I'm so proud that future generations will continue to be inspired by this patriotic service.

TRIBUTE TO BRIG. GEN. MILFORD BEAGLE, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and one of our Nations great military leaders as he transfers command. Brigadier General Milford Beagle, Jr., a native son of South Carolina, has led Fort Jackson in his home state since 2018, and is leaving to take on his next assignment as commanding general of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division (Light) at Fort Drum in New York.

A native of Enoree, South Carolina, and a graduate of Woodruff High School, Gen. Beagle is the great-grandson of Private Walter Beagles, who trained at Camp Jackson in a segregated labor battalion in 1918. One hundred years later, Gen. Beagle served three years as commander of the Army base where his greatgrandfather faced discrimination. The

twist of fate is not lost on Gen. Beagle, who has said, "I am a Buffalo Soldier, I am a Harlem Hellfighter—you see, I am what a Black soldier set out to be in the early 1900s and even beyond that point. They wanted to be viewed as equal, they wanted to dispute the myths about Blacks being soldiers. They wanted to prove they were worthy enough to wear the uniform of our nation." I believe he has fulfilled the dreams and aspirations of so many Black soldiers who came before him.

Gen. Beagle's path to leadership began at my alma mater, South Carolina State University. There he was a track athlete and graduated with military distinction in 1990. He is part of S.C. State's tremendous legacy as one of the largest educators of minority Army officers in the country. He went on to earn two master's degrees from Kansas State University and the U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies.

During his 31-year career, Gen. Beagle has served with five regiments, the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, the 6th Infantry, the 9th Infantry, the 35th Infantry, and the 41st Infantry Regiment, and with five divisions, the 2nd Infantry Division, the 2nd Armored Division, the 5th Infantry Division, the 10th Mountain Division (Light), and the 25th Infantry Division. His key staff assignments include service as a planner and operations officer at battalion and brigade level, and as Chief Plans Branch, G3, Eighth Army, Republic of Korea. On the Joint and Army Staff, he served as the Joint Strategic Planner and later Executive Assistant to the Director, J-7, as well as the Division Chief, J-5, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization. On the Army Staff, he served as the Executive Officer to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

Gen. Beagle's combat and operational experience include tours with Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Gen. Beagle is married to the former Pamela Jones, a native of Blackville, South Carolina. The couple has two children, Jordan and Jayden, one an Army Lieutenant and the other a college student.

During his years at Fort Jackson, Gen. Beagle has become a community leader and role model. He helped secure the greater Midlands area the recognition as a "Great American Defense Community." He has earned the accolades of Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and Columbia Chamber of Commerce CEO Carl Blackstone. I join them in commending his tremendous involvement in the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in saluting the extraordinary service of Brigadier General Beagle. He has distinguished himself as a leader in the military and in the community. He commands the respect of those he leads and those he serves. I am proud to call him a friend, and I wish him well as he continues his service to this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDY BIGGS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, I missed the vote on passage